



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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WARWICK SEWER
AUTHORITY

September 21, 2009

John Brown
Director of Historic Preservation
Narragansett Indian Tribe
Post Office Box 268
Charlestown, RI 02813

Re: Algonquin Drive Sewer Project

Dear Mr. Brown:

First, I want to thank you for a very productive conversation regarding the unique situation of eight residents of Algonquin Drive. They are currently using failed cesspools and septic systems which are posing a significant threat to water quality in the coastal area of Narragansett Bay and also a public health threat to area residents exposed to contaminated runoff.

As you know, Native American artifacts were encountered during an archeological assessment of this area. Consequently, the work has stopped to give EPA and the Narragansett Tribe an opportunity to consult on the best way to handle these situations on a statewide basis. You had previously stated that in a situation where public health was a concern you would be willing to work with us to allow these families to connect with the sewer lines in order to mitigate a significant public health and environmental problem. We intend to concurrently pursue a more sustainable solution to the implementation of the NHPA for the remainder of this project, as well as future projects within the State of Rhode Island.

The overall purpose of this letter is to confirm the details of our verbal agreement. My understanding is that the Warwick Sewer Authority can proceed to connect eight homes on Algonquin Drive provided that any excavation is closely monitored by the archeological consultant firm, Public Archeology Laboratory, and that all artifacts found will be handled in a manner that will ensure their preservation and safe delivery to the Tribe. I also understand that if possible, you will have a tribal member at the site to oversee the management of the artifacts.

In order to ensure a smooth execution of this process, we will request that the Warwick Sewer Authority provide you with a schedule of the work well in advance. Once again, I thank you and appreciate your assistance with the protection of public health and environmental quality. I look forward to working with you to ensure that Native American artifacts are handled respectfully and with care now, and in the future.

Sincerely,

Lois K. Adams, Chief
Grants, Tribal, Community and Municipal Assistance Branch

Cc: Alan Levellee, PAL
Jeannine Burke, WSA
Jackie LeClair, EPA
George Frantz, EPA

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